

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR - 1 2015

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 518

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs, to which was referred Governor's Message No.
518, submitting for study and consideration the nomination of:

DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

G.M. No. 518 COLONEL KENNETH HARA,
for a term to expire 12-3-2018,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee has reviewed the personal history, resume, and
statement submitted by the nominee and finds Colonel Kenneth Hara
to possess the requisite qualifications to be nominated as the
Deputy Adjutant General of the Department of Defense.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the
nomination of Colonel Hara from the Governor; Department of Budget
and Finance; Hawaii Emergency Management Agency; Department of
Transportation; Veterans Advisory Board; Hawaii Army National
Guard; Hawaii National Guard; Hawaii Wing, Civil Air Patrol;
Chamber of Commerce Hawaii; and thirty-five individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that
Colonel Hara's background and extensive military experience
qualify him for appointment as the Deputy Adjutant General of the
Department of Defense. Colonel Hara has extensive military and
leadership experience, having more than thirty years of military
service, including three combat deployments. He has served as a
Battalion Commander, Deputy G3 of the Hawaii Army National Guard,
and Deputy Commander and Commander of the 29th Infantry Brigade



Combat Team. Since 2013, he has served as the Chief of the Joint Staff of the Hawaii National Guard where he is responsible for developing, implementing, and communicating Hawaii National Guard policies; managing the Hawaii National Guard Joint Staff; advising the Adjutant General regarding Hawaii National Guard training, missions, and functions; collaborating with intergovernmental groups and government officials on emergency management matters; and assisting with strategic communications strategy, plans, and executions.

Colonel Hara received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Services from Hawaii Pacific University and a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. He has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and Hawaii National Guard Association Field Grade Officer of the Year. Colonel Hara has been active in the Hawaii Pacific University Alumni Association, United States Army War College Alumni Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and Hawaii National Guard Association.

Testimony in support of Colonel Hara's nomination indicates that he is admired and respected by those who know and work with him. He is described by colleagues and friends as an honest, fair, and intelligent leader who is keenly aware of the challenges that face the State and as someone who can be counted on to provide the right decisions at the right time. Since his January appointment as the Deputy Adjutant General of the Department of Defense, he has already demonstrated an ability to build systems and bring a sense of order to the Department. Colonel Hara has the experience, knowledge, and demeanor to assist the Adjutant General in leading the Department.

Your Committee finds that Colonel Hara has outstanding credentials and has demonstrated a high level of understanding of the State's military, security, and emergency management needs. His years of military service, accomplishments, and leadership experience indicate that he is prepared to lead and support the Adjutant General. Colonel Hara is exceptionally qualified to serve as the Deputy Adjutant General of the Department of Defense.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominee, has found the nominee to be qualified for the



position to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs,

Will Espero

WILL ESPERO, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
PSM
Advise and Consent

Governor's Message No.:* GM 518	Committee Referral: PSM	Date: 3-17-15		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"><div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340</div><div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345</div></div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
ESPERO, Will (C)	✓			
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (VC)	✓			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	✓			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C.				✓
SLOM, Sam	✓			
TOTAL	4	—	—	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div>Original File with Committee Report</div><div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div><div>Pink Drafting Agency</div><div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div></div>				

*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes